

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Amended) A sealed battery, accommodating a battery element of flat shape, said battery element [[,]] comprising:

a positive electrode and a negative electrode being laminated onto each other with a separator interposed between them and being would together; and

a battery case containing said positive and negative electrode, comprising:

~~a plurality of walls forming the battery case with each wall of the plurality of walls having an inner surface and a flat outer surface~~ a front wall, a back wall, and two parallel side walls perpendicular to and connecting said front wall and said back wall, said walls surrounding an inside of said battery case having a top and a bottom,

~~wherein the inner surface of one wall of the plurality of walls has a curved surface in which a center portion of said one wall of the plurality of walls is thinner than any other portion of said one wall~~ a portion of said front wall is recessed and protrudes into the inside of said battery case, and

wherein said recessed portion is curved so that the distance from said recessed portion to the top of said battery case is less at a horizontal center between said sides than at a point horizontally nearer to either of said sides.

2. (Previously presented) A sealed battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery is a lithium ion battery.

3-6. (Canceled)